



*Minutes subject to approval by the NC Courts Commission at the next meeting

The North Carolina Courts Commission met on Friday, October 18th, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the UNC School of Government, Room 2603 (400 South Rd, Chapel Hill, NC).

Attendance

Rep. Joe John (Chair)
Rep. Lee Zachary
Hon. Donna Stroud
Mr. McKinley Wooten
Robert Kemp
Tonya Bunn Powell
Hon. Lora Cabbage
Hon. Regina Parker
J. Patrick Haywood
Sen. Carl Ford
Tim Lea
Ms. Lisa Scales
Rep. Marcia Morey (Call in)
Sen. Valerie Foushee (Call in)
Gregory B. Drumwright (Call in)

Call to Order

The Chair, Rep. Joe John, called the meeting to order, welcomed members of the Commission, as well as members of the public present, and laid forth the agenda for the meeting.

Trends in Domestic Violence and Abuser Treatment Programs Presentation

Mary Williams-Stover, *Executive Director, North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement*, provided the commission with an update on the trends in the data for domestic violence and abuser treatment programs from 2018 - 2019. Ms. Williams-Stover also provided information about the NC Domestic Violence Commission and their role in the state.

Christy Agner, *Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Administration*, spoke on funding and other needs for nonprofit domestic violence programs. Nonprofit groups only receive funding if they are providing all of the required government programs. Each nonprofit group gets the same amount of funding. Ms. Agner also discussed how the abuser treatment program, whose purpose is to stop recidivism, needs to fill a staff position.

Judge Robert Wilkins, *District Court: Randolph, Moore, Montgomery Counties & Member, NC Domestic Violence Commission*, discussed the Batterer Intervention Program Committee which he is the chairman of. Judge Wilkins also spoke on the passage, successes, and downfalls of SB 493, DVPO Abuser Treatment/Time of Expiration.

Tobacco Use Prevention among Youth and Young Adults Presentation

Jim Martin, MS, *Director of Policy and Programs, NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch NC Division of Public Health*, gave a thorough presentation on tobacco use prevention and the increasing popularity of e-cigarettes among youth.



Dr. Susan Kansagra, *Section Chief, Chronic Disease and Injury Section* provided insight on lung injuries associated with e-cigarette use nationally and in our state, and recommended interventions for e-cigarette use.

Subcommittee Appointment

Rep. John appointed subcommittees to study both previously discussed topics.

Subcommittee on Domestic Violence

Judge Donna Stroud (Chair)

Judge Regina Parker

Rep. Lee Zachary

Rep. Marcia Morey

Judge Lora Cabbage

Subcommittee on E-Cigarette Use among Youth

Rep. Sarah Stevens (Co-Chair)

Mr. Tim Lea (Co-Chair)

Rev. Gregory Drumwright

Ms. Lorrin Freeman

Ms. Tonya Bunn Powell

Senator Carl Ford

Pre-trial Release Workgroup Update

Robert Kemp, *Pitt County Public Defender*, provided the commission with an update on the pre-trial release workgroup and their findings. Mr. Kemp also provided the commission with an extensive list of possible recommendations for legislation the Committee could make. The committee decided to narrow the list down to a top 5 which they would consider for recommendation. These proposals were:

- 1) Mandatory First appearances for misdemeanors in custody.
- 2) Amending GS 15A-534 to eliminate requirement that judge must set a \$1,000 secured bond when defendant has a FTA
- 3) Amending GS 15A-534 to modify requirement of secured bond when defendant is on house arrest/electronic monitoring
- 4) Statewide programs/policies re: Pretrial Release Program, Uniform Policies for Failure to Appear/Failure to Pay across the State, No secured bond for misdemeanors that carry no possibility of an active sentence.
- 5) Statewide funding for house arrest/electronic monitoring programs.

Adjournment and Future Commission Meetings

Rep. John adjourned the meeting with the tentative plan to reconvene on Friday, January 31st, location TBD.